

County may try 9/3/76 to block Kin-Buc

By MARK CRANE

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NEW BRUNSWICK — Middlesex County may seek an injunction to prevent the state Department of Environmental Protection from granting any further approvals for the expansion of the controversial Kin-Buc landfill in Edison.

A committee comprising county solid waste management and water quality planning officials met with the Board of Freeholders this morning to request the seeking of an injunction "until the DEP can guarantee that the environment will be protected," according to Theodore O'Neill, administrator of the county Solid Waste Management program.

The Solid Waste Administration of DEP last month granted Scientific, Inc., the owners of Kin-Buc, a conditional approval of conceptual plans for the expansion of the landfill facility.

However, public hearings regarding the possible revocation of Kin-Buc's license for its existing facility, due to various pollution violations, start today before a combined board of DEP and Public Utility Commission in Newark.

"We want assurances that these facilities will be safe, that no other facilities are available and that DEP has the capability and expertise to regulate the facility," O'Neill said.

The officials said it is the responsibility of DEP to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Edison and county residents that the operators of Kin-Buc have the technical and management capability to insure the protection of the environment.

The committee also called on DEP Commissioner David Bardin to remove the responsibility for reviewing the expansion plans from the Solid Waste Administration.

"We want to see a new department for hazardous wastes. All future enforcement should be placed in a special office out of the commissioner's office," O'Neill said.

The county Solid Waste Management Program joined with the county's Water Quality Management Planning Group in asking the state Public Advocate's office to review all DEP approvals of Kin-Buc's expansion.



DOUGLAS POWELL
"Russian Roulette"

approval for Kin-Buc II, will cry impoverishment and this treatment facility will never be built," one county planning officials predicted.

County Planning Director Douglas Powell joined the other officials in urging DEP to establish other landfill sites around the state.

Likening the decision making process at DEP to a game of "Russian Roulette," Powell said it is easier for DEP to grant approval for expansion of an existing facility than to take the time to study alternative methods and sites.

O'Neill said county officials expected a "crunch" when Kin-Buc I was temporarily shut because county industries would have no place to dispose of their chemical wastes.

"There are some alternate treatment sites and the industries are holding back on disposal of wastes," he said. "But we asked DEP to study alternatives since last

John Runyon, chairman of the 208 Policy Advisory Committee and East Brunswick business administrator, said the Farrington Sands aquifer is being polluted by leachates from the landfill. "This poses a direct threat to the water resources of the county, but the DEP still won't require an environmental impact statement for the expansion," he said.

County officials complained that the Solid Waste Administration doesn't adequately consult with local officials before making significant decisions.

"We've been called on the afternoon before a meeting the next day to hear about major decisions. That doesn't give the people of the county enough opportunity to study proposals and make comments," O'Neill said.

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The Kin-Buc landfill, the largest in the state, is now the only facility in the state where hazardous wastes may be disposed of. "Instead of having one giant facility, we should have nine or 10 smaller ones around the state. DEP should invite others to submit design proposals," O'Neill said.

According to the conditional approval for the expansion, the facility will be allowed to accept 1,250,000 gallons per week of liquid wastes.

County officials expressed pessimism regarding the construction of a chemical treatment plant as part of the plans for

